IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the following sections as indicated:

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION AND ADVANTAGES

The invention provides a magnetic fastener to fasten a first flap of material to a second flap of material. The first flap of material has an inside and an exterior, while the second flap of material has an outside and an interior. A magnetic assembly includes a first portion including at least two first apertures disposed therein and attached to the first flap and a second portion including at least two second apertures disposed therein and attached to the second flap for interconnecting the first flap to the second flap. A first thread passes through the first apertures for attaching the first portion to the inside of the first flap. A second thread passes through the second apertures for attaching the second portion to the outside of the second flap. ~~The magnetic fastener is characterized by a~~ A handle is attached to the exterior of the first flap and interconnected to the first portion of the magnetic assembly for allowing a person to grasp on to the handle to easily operate the magnetic assembly.

The subject invention also provides a magnetic fastener to fasten a first flap of material to a second flap of material. The first flap of material has an inside and an exterior, while the second flap of material has an outside and an interior. A magnetic assembly includes a first portion attached to the first flap and a second portion attached to the second flap for interconnecting the first flap to the second flap. A button is attached to the exterior of the first flap and directly interconnected with the first portion of the magnetic assembly for allowing a person to grasp the button and operate the magnetic assembly. A buttonhole stitch on the first flap creates the appearance of a standard button-to-buttonhole assembly.

The subject invention further provides a magnetic fastener including a first flap of material having an inside and an exterior and a second flap of material having an outside and an interior. A magnetic assembly includes a magnet attached to the first flap

and a magnetic element attached to the second flap for interconnecting the first flap to the second flap. A handle is attached to the exterior of the first flap and directly interconnected with the magnet for allowing a person to grasp the handle and operate the magnetic assembly. The magnetic element includes a peripheral wall portion and a planer wall portion defining a cavity for receiving the magnet. The magnetic element further includes a flange portion extending outwardly from the peripheral wall portion for contacting the magnet during operation of the magnetic fastener such that the magnet can be guided into the cavity.

The subject invention also provides a magnetic fastener including a first flap of material having an inside and an exterior and a second flap of material having an outside and an interior. A magnetic assembly includes a magnetic element attached to the first flap and a magnet attached to the second flap for interconnecting the first flap to the second flap. A handle is attached to the exterior of the first flap and directly interconnected with the magnetic element for allowing a person to grasp the handle and operate the magnetic assembly. The magnetic element including a peripheral wall portion and a planer wall portion defining a cavity for receiving the magnet. The magnetic element further includes a flange portion extending outwardly from the peripheral wall portion for contacting the magnet during operation of the magnetic fastener such that the magnet can be guided into the cavity.

Accordingly, the magnetic fastener is easy to operate and especially useful for persons who lack fine motor coordination. Furthermore, when the magnetic fastener is used on an article of clothing and the handle is embodied as a button, the article of clothing has a standard looking appearance.

Please replace the following paragraphs as indicated:

[0018] Figures 3, 4, and 5 illustrate, in greater detail, a first embodiment of the magnetic fastener 10 to interconnect a first flap 12 of material to a second flap 14 of material. As shown in Figure 3, the magnetic fastener 10 includes a magnetic assembly 24 which comprises a first portion 56 attached to the first flap 12 and a second

portion 58 attached to the second flap 14. Preferably, the first portion 56 includes at least two first apertures disposed therein and the second portion 58 includes at least two second apertures disposed therein. A first thread 38 passes through the first apertures to attach the first portion 56 to the inside 16 of the first flap 12. A second thread 44 passes through the second apertures to attach the second portion 58 to the outside of the second flap 14. The magnetic fastener 10 also includes the handle 30.

[0022] In the first embodiment, the at least two second apertures are further defined as at least two magnetic element apertures 42 and are disposed through the magnetic element 28. The at least two first apertures are further defined as the ~~and~~ at least two magnet apertures 36 and are disposed through the magnet 26. Additionally, at least two button apertures 40 are disposed through the button 32. It is preferred that the button apertures 40 align with the magnet apertures 36. This alignment allows [[a]] the first thread 38 to pass through both the button apertures 40 and the magnet apertures 36 to secure them both to the first flap 12 of material. [[A]] The second thread 44 passes through the magnetic element apertures 42 for attaching the magnetic element 28 to the outside 20 of the second flap 14. Those skilled in the art will realize that other means of attaching the magnet 26 and magnetic element 28 to the first and second flaps 12, 14, aside from apertures 36, 42 and threads 38, 44, may also be implemented.

[0026] In a second embodiment, as shown in Figures 6 and 7, the second portion 58 of the magnetic assembly 24 is the magnet 26 which is attached to the outside 20 of the second flap 14. The first portion 56 is the magnetic element 28 which is attached to the inside 16 of the first flap 12. The at least two first apertures are the at least two magnet element apertures 42 and the at least two second apertures are the at least two magnetic apertures 36. Again, the button 32 includes button apertures 40 to receive the first thread 38 for attaching the button 32 to the exterior 18 of the first flap 12. It is preferred that the button apertures 40 align with the magnetic element apertures 42 to also accommodate the first thread 38 passing through the magnetic element apertures 42 for attaching the magnetic element 28 to the inside 16 of the first flap 12.

The second thread 44 passes through the magnet apertures 36 for attaching the magnet to the outside 20 of the second flap 14.